

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 20-A

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER
18 October 1981

A British intelligence chief is called a spy

Reuters

LONDON — Citing secret documents just released in Canada, a prominent journalist has urged the British government to re-examine his claim that one of its intelligence chiefs had been a Soviet spy.

Chapman Pincher told reporters Friday that evidence given to a Canadian commission on spying supported his own suspicion that the late Sir Roger Hollis, head of MI-5 counter-espionage from 1956 to 1965, had spied for the Soviet Union.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told Parliament in March that Hollis was investigated in the 1970s but that no proof was found that he had spied for the Soviet Union.

Pincher said that, according to documents released in Ottawa Thursday, Soviet defector Igor Gouzenko told the Canadian commission in 1946 that there was a secret-agent code-named "Ellis" in Britain.

Pincher said he had always maintained that Hollis used that as his code name. Hollis died in 1975.

In a book published earlier this year, Pincher suggested that Hollis had been an undetected "mole" in the higher echelons of British intelligence.

Pincher said Friday that Thatcher should reopen the case because there were several important errors in her parliamentary statement.

He said he had spoken a few days ago to Gouzenko, who is living in Canada under an assumed name.

Pincher said authorities had established that the MI-5 officer whom

Britain sent to interview Gouzenko in 1945 was Hollis himself.

In the early 1970s, another MI-5 officer visited Gouzenko and showed him the report that Hollis had filed in 1945.

"Gouzenko said to me the other night that if Hollis had written that report, then Hollis was a spy. The testimony was a fake," Pincher said.

Gouzenko worked as a clerk in the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa and in the main cypher room of military intelligence in Moscow.